

IRAN'S POLICIES DURING WORLD WAR II

the government's only weapon. At one time in December, 1942, the government suspended all newspapers published in Teheran, and for several weeks the only paper appearing was *Akhbar-i-Ruz*, on this occasion published by the government itself. This radical step was dictated by violent disturbances that took place in Teheran toward the end of 1942. Angered by a serious shortage of food a mob attacked and put fire to the house of Prime Minister Qavam Saltaneh. The troops machine-gunned the populace, and further bloodshed occurred near the parliament buildings. The press poured out a torrent of insults against the Premier and his cabinet. The result was its wholesale suspension for an indefinite time. Eventually Qavara resigned and was replaced by Ali Soheily.

At this time the Majlis adopted a law setting forth certain conditions for the publication of newspapers. The law provided that a university diploma was to be required of prospective editors and that a paper could be founded only after a permit was issued by the Department of Press and Propaganda. But soon after the law^T \\-as passed approximately thirty newspapers sprang into existence. Their number gradually increased. The restrictions were of little value. In view of the anarchistic conditions prevailing in the press, the government of Ali Soheily proposed in June, 1943, a new law that would limit the number of newspapers to seven in Teheran and to one, two, or three in the provinces. A storm of protest broke out in the Majlis, and during a secret session Soheily was compelled to withdraw his project.

Although most of the papers naturally were published in Persian, several were published in foreign languages. In

Teheran alone three
 newspapers were published in Armenian. Of these,
Veradzenund
 had the largest circulation. In Tabriz *Vatan Yolunda*
 was published
 in Turkish. The brothers Massudi in Teheran, owners
 of two Persian-
 language newspapers, the daily *Ettela'at* (circulation
 15,000) and the
 weekly *Ettela'at-i-Haftegi*, published also the *Journal*
de Tehran, a
 daily in French, with a circulation much larger than
 the average
 Iranian newspaper. In 1944 a weekly literary and
 political review, the
Journal de Tehran-Samedi was added. It was
 sponsored unofficially
 by the French Legation. The Soviet Embassy
 published a daily,
Novosti Dnia. The British Embassy had its *Tehran*
Daily News,

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